

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 01257 251222Z

53

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 MMS-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01

ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 IOE-00 /113 W
----- 034360

P R 251132Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 939

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USUN NEW YORK 1369

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1257

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECOSOC SHUM

SUB: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION-ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

REF: GENEVA 1164

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, HRC DISCUSSED ROLE OF
NGOS IN WORK OF COMMISSION DURING CLOSED SESSION
CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 6(A). ATTACK LED BY
IRAN (GANJI) WHO CHARGED NGOS WITH VIOLATING
CONFIDENTIALITY OF 1503 PROCEDURES (E.G., PUBLICIZING
COMMUNICATIONS BEING CONSIDERED UNDER 1503), AND MAKING
BIASED AND UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES IN ORAL STATEMENTS
IN PUBLIC SESSIONS OF HRC. (STAGE FOR LATTER CHARGE
SET BY ORAL PRESENTATION BY SPOKESMAN FOR WORLD
CONFERENCE FOR RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP) WHICH
CONTAINED SERIES OF SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS OF RELIGIOUS
INTOLERANCE BY MEMBER STATES). ALSO OF CONCERN TO
GANJI WAS PREDOMINANTLY PRO-WESTERN ORIENTATION OF
NGOS (DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CANNOT AFFORD TO SUPPORT
NGOS) AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THEM TO PUBLICIZE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 01257 251222Z

THEIR ACCUSATIONS (MASS MEDIA CONTROLLED BY A FEW

MAJOR POWERS). IRAN STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY EGYPT,
OTHER REPS JOINED IN PROTEST AGAINST WCRP STATEMENT.

2. FOLLOWING INITIAL DISCUSSION, GANJI TABLED
D BY 15 AFRO-ASIAN COUNTRIES
WHICH FORMED BASIS FOR FINAL RESOLUTION APPROVED BY
HRC. BASIC ELEMENTS INCLUDED (A) IMPLICITLY IMPOSING
CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS OF ECOSOC RESES 454
(XIV), 728 (XXVIII), AND 1503 (XLVIII) ON NGOS
SUBMITTING WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS, (B) EXTENDING
SAME CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS TO ORAL STATEMENTS
BY NGOS IN PUBLIC SESSIONS, AND (C) THREATENING
NGOS WHO FAILED TO COMPLY WITH ABOVE WITH SUSPENSION
OR WITHDRAWAL OF CONSULTATIVE STATUS IN ACCORDANCE
WITH ECOSOC RES 1296 (XLIV). SOMEWHAT INGENUOUSLY,
GANJI DESCRIBED RES AS PART OF PROCESS OF STRENGTHENING
1503 PROCEDURES BY ELIMINATING FEARS OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES ABOUT NGO ACTIVITIES.

3. ONLY OPPOSITION TO GANJI PROPOSAL CAME
FROM WEOS-UK, NETHERLANDS, AUSTRIA, AND US IN
PARTICULAR. IN INITIAL ROUND, WEO EFFORT TO HAVE
DEBATE IN PUBLIC SESSION DEFEATED 25-6 (FRANCE, FRG,
ITALY, AUSTRIA, NETHERLANDS, US)-1(UK). SUBSEQUENTLY,
DUTCH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GANJI TEXT DESIGNED TO
CLARIFY ACTUAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS TO NGOS UNDER
RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TO EXCLUDE ORAL STATEMENTS
FROM SCOPE OF RESOLUTION, AND ATTACH TO SOME BLAME
FOR LEAKS ON CONFIDENTIAL SESSIONS TO OTHER THAN
NGOS. UK OFFERED ALTERNATE RES WHICH FOCUSED ON
SUBCOMMISSION RULES OF ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE
AND CALLED ON SY TO INFORM ALL COMMUNICANTS OF
IMPORTANCE OF DISCRETION VIZ. 1503 CONFIDENTIALITY
PROCEEDINGS. AUSTRIA SOUGHT TO AMEND TEXT TO SPECIFY
LEGAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER 1503 AND UNDER 1296. US
INTERVENTION ACKNOWLEDGED SERIOUS CONCERN OF SOME
ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF NGOS BUT URGED THAT RATHER THAN
SEEKING TO IMPOSE LEGAL RESTRAINTS, IT FAR PREFERABLE
TO SEEK COOPERATION OF NGOS IN SUPPORTING SPIRIT
OF 1503 CONFIDENTIALITY. US STATEMENT MADE SPECIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 01257 251222Z

OBJECTION TO ATTEMPTS TO LIMIT ORAL STATEMENTS OF
NGOS. IN PUBLIC SESSIONS AND RECALLED VALUABLE CONTRI-
BUTIONS MADE IN PAST TO COMMISSION WORK BY NGOS.

4. IN ADDITION TO MINOR WORDING CHANGES, GANJI
ACCEPTED ONLY UK PROPOSAL RE RULES FOR ADMISSIBILITY
OF EVIDENCE AND AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL ON REWORDING OF
REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE SUSPENSION UNDER RES 1296.

OTHER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS DEFEATED IN VOTES WITH ROUGHTLY 10 COUNTRIES SUPPORTING (WEOS, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECQUADOR, 20 COUNTRIES OPPOSING AND 1(TUNISIA) ABSTAINING. RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE APPROVED 22-4(US, UK, NETHERLANDS, ITALY)-6 (AUSTRIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, COSTA RICA, FRANCE, FRG). USDEL WILL FORWARD FINAL TEXT OF RESOLUTION AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. IN LAST MINUTE ACTION, HRC DECIDED TO MAKE TEXT OF RESOLUTION PUBLIC.

5. COMMENT: MIX OF MOTIVES LAY BEHIND SUPPORT FOR THIS RES. SOME LIKE EGYPT, MOST ARAB STATES, AND EAST EUROPEANS WERE SEEKING TO WEAKEN 1503 PROCEDURES THROUGH DESTROYING USEFULNESS OF NGOS. OTHER WERE PROBABLY MORE GENUINELY CONCERNED WITH REAL OR IMAGINED ABUSES OF NGOS OF THEIR PRIVILEGES. WHAT EVER THEIR MOTIVATION, THE CO-SPONSORS WERE SIMPLY NOT WILLING TO BE CONCERNED WITH LEGAL TECHNICALITIES OR TO COMPROMISE ON HEART OF THEIR RESOLUTION.

6. IN SPITE OF WEO EFFORTS TO CONTRARY, DEBATES WERE HELD IN CLOSED SESSIONS AND NGOS NOT PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE. PREVIOUS NGO STATEMENTS IN PUBLIC SESSION, IN PARTICULAR THAT BY WCRP, DID NOT IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE IN CHAMBER. IN ANY EVENT, IT DOUBTFUL THAT THEIR PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE HAD ANY EFFECT ON FINAL OUTCOME.

7. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT WITHOUT THE DETERMINED DRIVE OF GANJI (IRAN) A RESOLUTION SO CRITICAL OF NGO ROLE WOULD HAVE BEEN ADOPTED. THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN CLOSED SESSIONS UNDER 1503
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 GENEVA 01257 251222Z

PROCEDURES, GANJI GAVE EVIDENCE OF HIS OUTRAGE AT NGO ATTACKS ON IRAN, EXAMPLES OF WHICH HE READ FROM THE LOCAL PRESS. HE PICTURED THE SITUATION AS INVOLVING A THREAT TO THE SOVERIGN RIGHTS OF THE AFRO-ASIAN COUNTRIES AND INSISTED THAT NGOS ADMITTED TO CONSULTATIVE STATUS BY THE UN MUST PLAY THE GAME ACCORDING TO THE RULES. FOR GANJI THE RULES MEAN THAT NGOS IN CONSULTATIVE STAAUS MUST NOT PUBLICLY ATTACK MEMBER STATES. HE USED AS AN EXAMPLE THE AMNESTY REPORT ON TORTURE, AND ARGUED THAT AN NGO ISSUING SUCH A REPORT SHOULD BE DENIED CONSULTATIVE STATUS. HE SUMMED BY BY ASKING THE QUESTION, "WHO NEEDS THE NGOS"?

8. SINCE THE HRC RESOLUTION IN TERMS OF DRAFT RES

FOR ECOSOC CONSIDERATION, BATTLE WILL SHIFT TO THAT
FORUM. WE ASSUME THESE SESSIONS WILL BE PUBLIC AND
WILL INCLUDE OPPORTUNITY FOR NGO PARTICIPATION. DALE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA01257
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750066-0038
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750216/aaaaanug.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA 1164
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION-ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
TAGS: SHUM, ECOSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006